



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 06 November 2003

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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Daily Overview

- The Associated Press reports utility regulators have said that better communications between the operators overseeing the electrical transmission grid and utilities could have prevented the power outage from spreading through eight states and Canada last August. (See item [1](#))
- The Carolina Channel reports Greenville, SC, police are investigating a letter that said there were bombs on an Amtrak train. (See item [6](#))
- eSecurity Planet reports that Microsoft has issued a 'critical' update to fix problems in the Powerpoint, Word and Excel products in Microsoft Office 2003, which was released on October 21. (See item [19](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

IT and Cyber: [Information and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

Other: [General](#); [DHS/IAIP Web Information](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *November 05, Associated Press* — **Blackout report by Michigan regulator criticizes communications.** Better communications between the operators overseeing the electrical transmission grid and utilities could have prevented the power outage from spreading through eight states and Canada on August 14, a report by Michigan utility regulators said. **The Michigan Public Service Commission on Wednesday, November 5, criticized the lack of coordination between the Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator in**

Indiana, known as MISO, and PJM Interconnection, which operates the energy market from New Jersey to West Virginia. It said the regional transmission organizations failed to detect the scope of power problems in Ohio. "On the day of the blackout, there was confusion," the report said. "AEP was calling FirstEnergy directly. AEP was calling PJM. PJM was calling FirstEnergy. PJM considered calling MISO but did not have time before events started to cascade." Michigan is the first state affected by the blackout to issue its investigation results. **The report recommends that a single regional transmission organization be established for the Midwest, and that participation be mandatory for all utilities and transmission grid owners.** "A seamless region will result in better reliability management, because the region would be overseen by one entity," it said.

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/ap/20031105/ap_on_re_us/blackout_michigan_3

2. *November 05, Associated Press* — **Power grid wants more authority.** The people who run the New England power grid want more power and less oversight. Holyoke, MA-based **ISO New England has filed a massive application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to convert its operations to that of a more independent regional organization.** Federal regulators have been pushing for the move that would give the grid operator the authority to force utilities to build new transmission lines and would lessen state oversight. The move is opposed by the grid's 200-member utilities and the state attorneys general of Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Source: <http://www.wfsb.com/Global/story.asp?S=1511762>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

3. *November 04, Federal Computer Week* — **DoD aims for one IT framework. Instead of having different and sometimes duplicating information systems that work together, the Department of Defense (DoD) should have one information technology architecture with modules for its agencies and services,** the deputy commander of U.S. Pacific Command said Tuesday, November 4. "We need one network, one system that everybody connects to in order to communicate, compute, collaborate and share," said Air Force Lt. General Robert Dierker, deputy commander of the U.S. Pacific Command (Pacom), at the AFCEA Asia-Pacific 2003 conference. "The system, of course, is way too big and way too complex to manage as a single entity. Therefore, we have to learn how to refresh the system solutions as modules within the context of a larger overarching system: the information infrastructure." **The Joint Information Capabilities Enhancement Environment (JICEE) is an effort led by DoD Chief Information Officer John Stenbit to break down the stovepipes that have pervaded the department for decades.** Pacom is a joint command with representatives from each of the four services and several DoD-related agencies.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

4. *November 05, Dow Jones Newswires* — **SEC eyes revising fingerprinting rule.** Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Chairman William Donaldson said his agency is looking at revamping a fingerprinting rule to make sure that fingerprints sent to the FBI for use in criminal history checks belong to the applicants who submitted them. The purpose of any such revision would be to strengthen safeguards against unsavory persons entering the securities industry. Donaldson also said the SEC will contact the Commodity Futures Trading Commission on the fingerprinting issue. The SEC chairman made his remarks in a letter to Rep. John Dingell, the ranking Democratic member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Dingell released the letter Wednesday, November 5. The SEC chief also said his agency is improving its system for referral of delinquent disgorgements and civil penalties to Treasury for collection and also upgrading its case tracking system.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/djus/031105/1513001396_2.html

5. *November 04, Medill News Service* — **Identity theft crackdown promoted.** As identity theft becomes the fastest-growing crime in the United States, some companies endorse legislation requiring them to disclose theft of personal data, while privacy advocates urge lawmakers to go even further to protect consumers. At a Tuesday, November 4, hearing called by the bill's author, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, **witnesses applauded S. 1350 as a much-needed first step in guarding against increasing security breaches on databases. Under the bill, companies must notify customers whenever their personal data—such as Social Security, driver's license, credit, or debit card numbers—are compromised through computer hacking or other unauthorized access.** Companies that fail to comply would be fined up to \$5000 per violation or up to \$25,000 each day. The bill leaves enforcement to the Federal Trade Commission and the state attorneys general. If enacted, the bill would override conflicting state laws. It would not affect a similar California law enacted last July. Feinstein said the bill is necessary because the prompt notice alerting consumers of their compromised personal data would give them an opportunity to take preemptive measures, such as canceling credit cards and monitoring their credit reports.

Source: <http://www.pcworld.com/news/article/0,aid,113282,00.asp>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

6. *November 05, Carolina Channel (SC)* — **Bomb scare stops train in Greenville.** Greenville, SC, police are investigating a letter that said there were bombs on a train. Officers told Greenville's WYFF News 4 that an attendant on an Amtrak train traveling to New York found a letter that said there were two CIA agents on board, and they had planted four bombs on the train. The note also said "This will help President Bush get re-elected". The train was stopped in Greenville just after 11 p.m. Tuesday. Greenville police and a

bomb-sniffing dog searched the train and passengers' luggage, but found nothing. The train was allowed to continue on to New York. **Forensics investigators are now going over the note looking for evidence.**

Source: <http://www.thecarolinachannel.com/news/2613038/detail.htm>

7. *November 05, Reuters* — **U.S. steps up airport screener surveillance.** The Bush administration said Wednesday it was increasing its undercover surveillance of airport screeners after a congressional investigation and an embarrassing incident involving smuggled boxcutters raised troubling questions about aviation security. **Stephen McHale, deputy administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, said his agency would carry out more secret tests of airport baggage and passenger screening staff to see whether they detect simulated terrorist threats.** "Through covert testing, we challenge screeners to detect threat objects at screening checkpoints and in checked baggage, using simulated terrorist threat devices and current techniques," McHale said in written testimony to a Senate committee. McHale told the Senate Commerce Committee that the agency is well aware of its problems and is trying to do a better job of identifying vulnerabilities.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/TRAVEL/11/05/airport.security.reut/>

8. *November 05, Congress Daily* — **Senate may soon take up FAA reauthorization measure. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-TN. and other senators acknowledged the full legislative schedule might delay the vote until next week, but Senate leaders are working to clear the agenda for an FAA vote this week, the source said. The House approved the conference report last Thursday, after Republican conferees removed all language referring to privatization of the air traffic control workforce.** Many Democrats believe the bill still would allow President Bush to privatize those workers by executive order. Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-NJ, reiterated Tuesday his plans to filibuster any FAA bill that does not explicitly forbid air traffic control privatization. Senate Republicans say they have enough votes to end a Lautenberg filibuster, but a Lautenberg aide said Tuesday he is confident Democrats have enough votes to prevent cloture.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/1103/110503cdam1.htm>

9. *November 05, Government Accounting Office* — **GAO-04-232T: Aviation Security: Efforts to Measure Effectiveness and Address Challenges.** It has been two years since the attacks of September 11, 2001, exposed vulnerabilities in the nation's aviation system. Since then, billions of dollars have been spent on a wide range of initiatives designed to enhance the security of commercial aviation. **However, vulnerabilities in aviation security continue to exist. As a result, questions have been raised regarding the effectiveness of established initiatives in protecting commercial aircraft from threat objects, and whether additional measures are needed to further enhance security.** Accordingly, the Government Accounting Office (GAO) was asked to describe the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) efforts to (1) measure the effectiveness of its aviation security initiatives, particularly its passenger screening program; (2) implement a risk management approach to prioritize efforts and focus resources; and (3) address key challenges to further enhance aviation security. **In prior reports and testimonies, GAO has made numerous recommendations to strengthen aviation security and to improve the management of federal aviation security organizations.** GAO also has ongoing reviews assessing many of the issues addressed in this testimony and will issue separate reports on these areas at a later date. Highlights:

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

10. *November 05, Memphis Business Journal* — **FedEx Express adds Kazakhstan stop. FedEx Express has launched a regularly scheduled flight to Kazakhstan, the first U.S. carrier to do so.** The flight uses Kazakhstan's largest city and business hub, Almaty, as a refueling stop for its Hong Kong to Paris flight. FedEx Express executive vice president Michael Ducker says such strategic landing stops significantly enhance the company's ability to facilitate expanding trade relationships between Asia and Europe. Kazakhstan borders Russia, China, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. The Kazakhstan refueling stop enables FedEx Express to increase its cargo capacity between Hong Kong and Paris by adding 55,000 pounds to each flight. **According to the Boeing 2002–2003 World Air Cargo Forecast, Asia and Europe cargo traffic is projected in the long-term to grow 7.1% per year westbound and 6.8% eastbound.** FedEx Express international business expansion has been led primarily by its Asia Pacific region, which experienced 9% export volume growth last quarter as a result of increased trade with Europe and North America.

Source: <http://memphis.bizjournals.com/memphis/stories/2003/11/03/day14.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture Sector

11. *November 05, Minnesota Ag Connection* — **USDA approves test for Johne's disease. The University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory has received U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) approval to offer a new, rapid, and low-cost diagnostic test for Johne's disease.** Johne's disease is a bacterial infection (*Mycobacterium paratuberculosis*) causing intestinal inflammation in cattle, sheep, and goats. It poses a significant threat to dairy and beef production industries, resulting in major economic losses in infected herds. **The new DNA-based polymerase chain reaction test enables the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory to test hundreds of animals at a time, takes only 48 hours to complete compared to 4 months for the standard test, and is affordable for livestock producers.**

Source: <http://www.Minnesotaagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=973&yr=2003>

12. *November 05, Illinois Ag Connection* — **Illinois to test deer for CWD. The Illinois Department of Agriculture will test hunter-harvested deer for chronic wasting disease (CWD) during the state's upcoming firearm deer season.** The department's animal disease diagnostic laboratories in Galesburg and Centralia have been approved by the federal government to perform the tests and will offer them to hunters this fall for \$50 each. Test results will be mailed to hunters after they are completed, which generally takes three to six weeks. During that time, hunters are advised to keep meat from the deer frozen.

Source: <http://www.illinoisagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=854&yr=2003>

13. *November 04, Oster Dow Jones Commodity News* — **EU insists ban on hormone-treated beef is justified. The European Union (EU) remains steadfast in its claim that it has found new evidence that hormone-treated beef is unsafe for human consumption, and will ask the World Trade Organization (WTO) to reverse a previous decision against an EU ban of the beef, Commissioner Pascal Lamy said Tuesday.** Lamy, speaking to the European Institute, further justified EU demands that the U.S. should lift economic sanctions that were set in retaliation to the EU ban on hormone-treated beef despite the fact that those sanctions were approved by the WTO. "In that spirit, we will be going shortly to (WTO) Dispute Settlement Body to ask the U.S. to lift the sanctions," Lamy said. The WTO ruled in 1998 there was no legal basis for the EU's long-running prohibition of hormone-treated beef, primarily from the U.S. and Canada, but the EU never lifted its ban. In retaliation, the U.S. has placed 100 percent tariffs on \$116.8 million in EU goods each year. **The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) has dismissed the recent EU claims that it should no longer be penalized for banning hormone-treated beef as baseless. "There's no new science," USTR chief agriculture negotiator Allen Johnson said.**

Source: http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=22101

[[Return to top](#)]

Food Sector

Nothing to report.

[[Return to top](#)]

Water Sector

14. *November 05, Rocky Mountain News* — **Western water concerns. More than 75 percent of the American West remains mired in a drought that shows no sign of ending, water officials said Tuesday.** "The truth is, none of us knows when this thing is going to break," said Don Wilhite, director of the National Drought Mitigation Center in Nebraska. "This may go on for quite a while." Wilhite's comments came during a federal conference in Denver on how to develop better forecasting, conservation, and monitoring tools to stave off future water crises in the parched western United States. **Assistant Secretary of the Interior Bennett Raley urged scientists who gathered Tuesday to find better scientific tools to solve water shortages. "This is an experiment in pragmatism," Raley said. "Water conflict is no longer tied directly to drought. Increasingly, because of explosive population growth, we're going to see conflict in normal water years unless we do something."** High on Tuesday's agenda was the impact of climate change on Western water supplies. In California, for example, water experts predict that spring runoff from the mountain snowmelt could be slashed by one-third if temperatures rise an average of 5.4 degrees Fahrenheit.

Source: http://rockymountainnews.com/drmn/local/article/0,1299.DRMN15_2402643,00.html

15. *November 05, Ohio State University* — **Computer model offers new tool to probe toxic waste site. A computer model developed at Ohio State University (OSU) is giving researchers a new understanding of how municipal wells at a famous toxic waste site in**

Woburn, MA, came to be contaminated, and how much contamination was delivered to residents. The wells, known as G and H, operated from 1964 to 1979. The Ohio State computer model simulates the movement of a plume of contamination as it spreads underground away from its source. The researchers used the OSU plume model and a water distribution model developed for Woburn in 1990. Linked together, the models form a powerful forensic tool, E. Scott Bair, professor of geological sciences said. "With them, we can estimate a plausible range of chemical contaminant concentrations captured by wells G and H, determine how the contaminated water mixed with clean water from the six other city wells, and then estimate the amount of contaminants that were likely delivered to homes in Woburn," Bair explained. **"The overall purposes of the work are to help organizations such as Environmental Protection Agency evaluate and cleanup the aquifer in Woburn and similar aquifers that are contaminated across the country,"** said Bair.

Source: <http://researchnews.osu.edu/archive/woburn.htm>

[[Return to top](#)]

Public Health Sector

16. *November 05, Associated Press* — **SARS vaccine.** Despite considerable progress in research, a vaccine against the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) virus will take at least two years to produce, the World Health Organization (WHO) said Wednesday. "We must be ready to manage a possible resurgence of SARS through the control measures that work, surveillance, early diagnosis, hospital infection control, contact tracing, and international reporting," said Lee Jong-wook, director-general of the WHO. **WHO said that if SARS reappears, a vaccine could be produced within two years. If there is no new outbreak, it likely will take four or five years.** Some of the usual procedures for vaccine development may need to be changed for SARS, WHO said. In particular, it may be necessary to license SARS vaccines even if no trial has been carried out to show how effective they are in humans.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/HEALTH/11/05/sars.vaccine.ap/>

17. *November 05, Washington Post* — **WHO assails wealthy nations on bioterror.** A severe lack of funding for surveillance and front-line defenses has left the World Health Organization (WHO) unprepared to deal with a global bioterrorist attack involving an agent such as smallpox, according to a senior official who monitors disease outbreaks for the agency. Several WHO officials also said they believe that U.S. bioterrorism defenses that mainly focus on domestic preparations could be ineffective against an attack involving a pathogen that emerges, or is released, in a remote part of the world and spreads internationally. More than 100 nations have no surveillance capabilities to detect such an outbreak, several WHO officials said. In an attack, they added, a welter of conflicting national protocols could undermine a swift response. Although the U.S. has sought to vaccinate domestic health workers against smallpox, no comparable program has been offered to WHO employees who may be the first to respond, said Patrick Drury, of WHO's Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network. **A spokesman for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services defended the level of support for WHO and said the U.S. is aiming for an optimal balance among unilateral, bilateral, and multilateral biodefense strategies.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A496-2003Nov4.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Government Sector

18. *November 05, National Journal's Technology Daily* — **Legislation may iron out wrinkles in US VISIT program.** Lawmakers on Thursday plan to introduce a bill to address concerns with a new visa program at the Homeland Security Department. **Rep. Pete Sessions, R-TX, who sits on the House Select Committee on Homeland Security, along with Reps. Lincoln Davis, D-TN, and Randy Neugebauer, R-TX, are unveiling the Visitor Information and Security Accountability Act at a Capitol Hill news conference.** The measure aims to “mirror” language in an August report by the General Accounting Office on the department's U.S. Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology program (US VISIT) and also deal with lawmaker's concerns outlined in the fiscal 2004 Homeland Security appropriations bill. “We want to convince lawmakers to continue funding this cornerstone program,” said a Sessions aide. The measure, among other things, would establish a “stakeholders” committee, which would include government officials and private sector representatives, to oversee that resources are “expeditiously provided” for the program.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/1103/110503tdpm1.htm>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information and Telecommunications Sector

19. *November 05, eSecurity Planet* — **'Critical' Office 2003 patch released.** Microsoft has issued a 'critical' update to fix problems in the Powerpoint, Word and Excel products in Microsoft Office 2003, which was released on October 21. Microsoft said **the errors occur when a user tries to open or save files that includes an OfficeArt shape that was previously modified or saved in an earlier version of Microsoft Office.** The errors mean that documents may not open completely or may be corrupted. In some cases, the documents may open but with missing content. There is no word on whether the 'critical' patch will be shipped with all new sales of the Office 2003 suite going forward. The update is available on the Microsoft Website:

<http://support.microsoft.com/?kbid=828041>

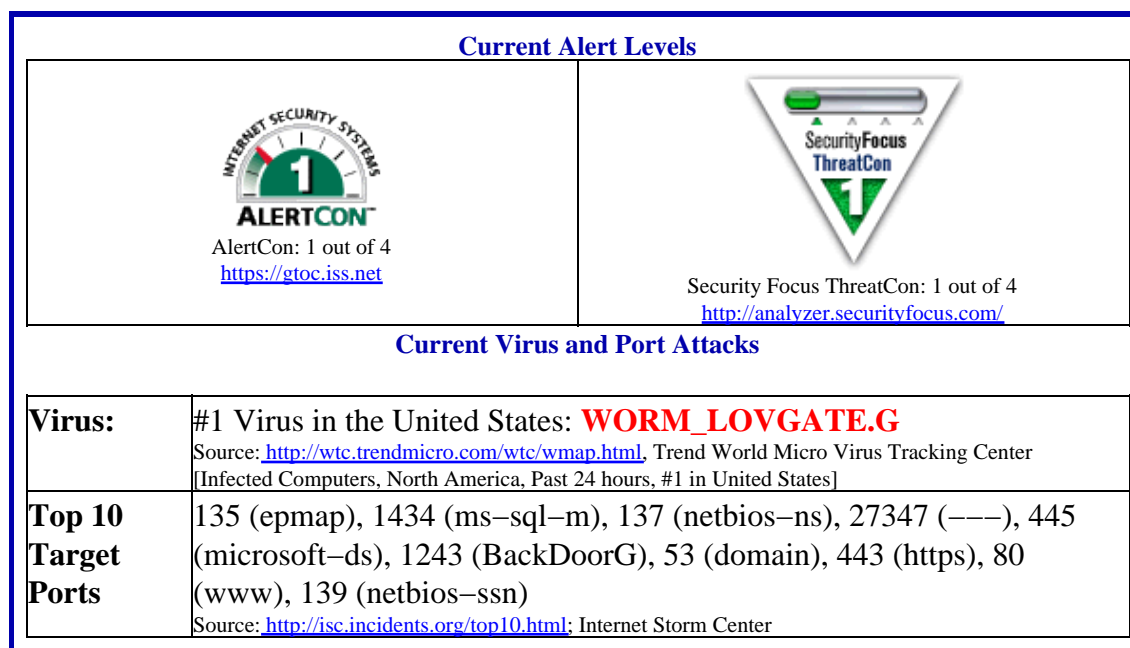
Source: <http://www.esecurityplanet.com/prodser/article.php/3104671>

20. *November 04, Washington Post* — **Congressman puts cybersecurity plan on hold. A congressional plan to require publicly traded companies to get computer security audits will be put on hold while technology businesses try to come up with a proposal of their own.** Rep. Adam Putnam, R-FL, chairman of a House technology subcommittee, said he will postpone plans to introduce his bill and wait about 90 days to see what kind of alternative the business community proposes. There are no similar bills in the Senate. Businesses often keep

cybercrime incidents under wraps and are generally unwilling to publicize any computer security measures, even with law enforcement. According to an April study by the Computer Security Institute and the FBI, **just 30 percent of companies that experienced cyberattacks last year reported such incidents to authorities.** The business community is also generally opposed to government-sponsored requirements on cybersecurity, whether from Congress or the White House.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A63587-2003Nov 4.html>

Internet Alert Dashboard



[[Return to top](#)]

General Sector

21. November 05, Agence France-Presse — Sri Lanka declares state of emergency. Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga on Wednesday, November 5, declared a state of emergency as the country plunged into political turmoil, her office said. Kumaratunga's move followed firing of three ministers on Tuesday, as well as the suspension of Parliament until November 19. Kumaratunga used her executive powers to impose the state of emergency which gives sweeping authority to the security forces to arrest and detain suspects. The fired ministers were those of defense, interior and information. The tough laws would be in force for a period of 10 days, the maximum period allowed without parliamentary sanctions, officials said. Any continuation of the extraordinary laws would require parliament to be resummoned to ratify her decision, officials said. Despite the political turmoil in the capital, the streets remained calm on Wednesday except for a larger than usual presence of troops at state media institutions.

Source: <http://www.straitstimes.asia1.com.sg/latest/story/0.4390.218 361.00.html?>

[[Return to top](#)]

DHS/IAIP Products & Contact Information

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